

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claims 3-5, 7, 23, and 24 are currently pending in the application.

The sole rejection remaining in this application is the rejection of Claims 3-5, 7, and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,941,896 to *Kerr*.

As an initial matter, Applicant expresses gratitude to Examiners Nguyen and Woo for the courtesies granted Applicant's attorney during the recent interview. During the interview, the Examiners agreed that Claim 3 would be allowable if amended to defined that the self-expanding sections and separate joint are disposed along the longitudinal direction of the elongated shaft.

As a result, Claim 3 has been amended to recite that the self-expanding sections are "disposed in the longitudinal direction" and that the self-expanding sections are foldable "in the longitudinal direction". It is submitted that these claims now define over the *Kerr* reference. As discussed during the interview, *Kerr* does not disclose self-expanding sections along a longitudinal direction, and that the self-expanding sections are foldable in the longitudinal direction. In contrast, *Kerr* discloses a rigid circular guide wire 20 including a plurality of loops 26, which collapse in the transverse direction of the guide wire 20, rather than in the longitudinal direction. Accordingly, it is submitted that *Kerr* does not disclose the patentable features of the present invention.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the system of Claim 3, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the applied


document. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues remaining in this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that she be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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